

25. NOW IS THE TIME (JOHN 5:25-29) 09/09/12  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATCHISON, PASTOR LEE HENDON

STARTING WITH A STORY CALLED: **JUST ASKIN'**

**ME:** GOD, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

**GOD:** SURE.

**ME:** PROMISE YOU WON'T GET MAD.

**GOD:** I PROMISE.

**ME:** WHY DID YOU LET SO MUCH STUFF HAPPEN TO ME TODAY?

**GOD:** WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

**ME:** WELL, I WOKE UP LATE.

**GOD:** YES.

**ME:** MY CAR TOOK FOREVER TO START.

**GOD:** OKAY.

**ME:** AT LUNCH THEY MADE MY SANDWICH WRONG & I HAD TO WAIT.

**GOD:** ALL RIGHT.

**ME:** ON TOP OF IT ALL, WHEN I GOT HOME I JUST WANTED TO SOAK MY FEET IN MY NEW FOOT MASSAGER & RELAX BUT IT WOULDN'T WORK!!! NOTHING WENT RIGHT TODAY! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

**GOD:** LET ME SEE, THE DEATH ANGEL WAS AT YOUR BED THIS MORNING & I HAD TO SEND ONE OF THE OTHER ANGELS TO BATTLE HIM FOR YOUR LIFE. I LET YOU SLEEP THROUGH THAT.

**ME:** (HUMBLED): OH...

**GOD:** I DIDN'T LET YOUR CAR START BECAUSE THERE WAS A DRUNK

DRIVER ON YOUR ROUTE THAT WOULD HAVE HIT YOU IF YOU WERE ON THE ROAD.

**ME:** (ASHAMED) UH-HUH

**GOD:** THE FIRST PERSON WHO MADE YOUR SANDWICH TODAY WAS SICK & I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO CATCH WHAT THEY HAD, I KNEW YOU COULDN'T AFFORD TO MISS WORK.

**ME:** (EMBARRASSED): OK...

**GOD:** THAT FOOT MASSAGER, IT HAD A SHORT THAT WAS GOING TO KNOCK OUT ALL OF THE POWER IN YOUR HOUSE. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WANTED TO BE IN THE DARK.

**ME:** I'M SORRY GOD.

**GOD:** DON'T BE SORRY, JUST LEARN TO TRUST ME.....IN ALL THINGS,

THE GOOD & THE BAD.

**ME:** I WILL TRUST YOU.

**GOD:** AND DON'T DOUBT THAT MY PLAN FOR YOUR DAY IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN YOUR PLAN.

**ME:** I WON'T GOD. AND LET ME JUST TELL YOU GOD, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING TODAY.

**GOD:** YOU'RE WELCOME MY CHILD. IT WAS JUST ANOTHER DAY BEING YOUR GOD AND I LOVE LOOKING AFTER MY CHILDREN.

FIRST OFF, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I **DO NOT, DO NOT** THINK GOD WORKS LIKE THAT. BLISSFUL THINKING. SUCH A LAZY WAY TO IMAGE LIFE & GOD. GOD DOES NOT MANEUVER OUR LIVES AROUND IN THE GAME OF LIFE. IT'S REALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND, SORTA.... GOD USES US TO MAKE MANIFEST HIS KING-DOM. GOD BEGAN GOD'S KINGDOM WITH JESUS - NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO STEP INTO THE FLOW OF THE KINGDOM - REALIZE GOD'S PRESENCE & POWER & REALIZE GOD'S KINGDOM REIGN - JESUS ANNOUNCED, "THE HOUR IS COMING & **NOW IS!**" THE FANCY NAME FOR IT IS "***REALIZED ESCHATOLOGY.***" IMPRESS YRSELF & OTHERS WITH THAT, "***REALIZED ESCHATOLOGY.***" JESUS VERY DEFINITELY MEANT TO IMPRESS THAT UPON US - **NOW IS THE TIME.** NOT WAITING FOR MORE.

JESUS WAS ANNOUNCING FOR ALL THE WORLD TO HEAR, ESPECIALLY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS, THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BEGINS & CONTINUES THRU HIM. THEY WERE SAYING THAT THIS JESUS WAS NOT RELIGIOUS ENOUGH - NOT THE KIND OF MESSIAH THEY WERE EXPECTING SO THEY WOULD WAIT FOR ANOTHER ONE TO COME ALONG - JESUS SAID, NOT SO!!! **I AM HE!!!** JESUS WAS GOD'S CRESCENDO OF LIFE OVER DEATH; RESURRECTION OVER JUDGMENT. IF YOU, WE, US ARE WAITING TO PICK DOOR #2 OR #3 WE HAVE A RUDE DEATH AWAITING US. JESUS PROCLAIMED IN VERSE 24, "THE ONE WHO HEARS GOD'S WORD, THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME HAS ETERNAL LIFE ALREADY, ALREADY HAS PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE." **WE WILL NEVER TASTE DEATH.**

ETERNAL LIFE IS A DIMENSION OF GOD'S REALITY THAT TRANSCENDS DEATH & NEVER SKIPS A BEAT. TRUST IN JESUS THAT THIS IS SO. DEATH IS NOT THE ENEMY - TO LIVE WITHOUT A SAVIOR IS THE ENEMY - TOO HORRIBLE TO EVEN COMPREHEND. TO REVEAL GOD'S CONTINUITY OF LIFE OVER DEATH, JESUS

EMPHASIZED THAT EVEN THE DEAD, THOSE ALREADY IN THEIR TOMBS, WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE WORDS OF JESUS & BELIEVE. "DO NOT MARVEL AT THIS," SAID JESUS. JESUS DID NOT MEAN THIS METAPHORICALLY - IT MEANT IT FOR REAL. OUR THINKING & PERCEPTION OF LIFE & DEATH IS WAY TWO DIMENSIONAL WHEN ALL ALONG IT IS STRETCHED BY AN ETERNAL DIMENSION - USHERED IN BY JESUS. **JESUS CHAMPIONS THE THIRD DIMENSION OF ETERNITY.**

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS CAN BE SO? BECAUSE JESUS STATED EMPHATICALLY HE IS THE **SON OF GOD**. THE SON HAS POWER OVER DEATH, JUDGMENT, RESURRECTION.... HELLO, COME ALIVE & LIVE IN THE KINGDOM STARTING RIGHT NOW.

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER AS CHURCH - THE CALLED OUT ONES - WE MAKE MANIFEST - VISIBLE A SLICE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. WHEN WE LEAVE THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP TO SPREAD THRU-OUT THIS COMMUNITY & WE LIVE JESUS ALIVE IN US - WE MAKE MANIFEST - VISIBLE A SLICE OF GOD'S KINGDOM. IF YOU ARE WAITING FOR SOMETHING MORE THEN YOU HAVE MISSED OUT ON THE WHOLE POINT OF GOD'S MESSAGE & PROCLAMATION IN JESUS.

OUR HOPE LIES IN A SAVIOR WHO HAS RESCUED US FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH STARTING THE MOMENT WE HEAR & BELIEVE IN HIM. HELLO....LIVE LIFE AWAKENED BY - EMPOWERED BY A SAVIOR THAT BREAKS OPEN EVERY TOMB. ARE YOU TOMB SLUMMING OR RESURRECTION SOARING? WHEN DEATH COMES A'KNOCKING WE ARE THE ONES WHO SCARE IT & NOT IT US. WE ARE TO HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE IN LIFE BECAUSE OF WHO JESUS IS - **THE SON OF MAN!** JESUS IS OUR INOCULATION AGAINST DEATH!

THE LAW KILLS WITH BLAME & SHAME, JUDGMENT & CON-DEMNATION. JESUS IS THE LIFE GIVER OF NO BLAME & SHAME, NO JUDGMENT & CONDEMNATION. HE PUTS A BOUNCE, A SPRING TO OUR LIFE-STEPS WHEN ALL THE WORLD WOULD SEEK TO BRING US DOWN, DOWN, DOWN. NOW YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, PREACHER, YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW DIFFICULT & OVER-POWERING THE TROUBLES & CARES OF THE WORLD CAN BE! REALLY? THINK I DO! I'D SAY, WE HAVE NOT COME FULLY INTO THE FLOW OF ETERNITY'S POWER WHEN WE ALLOW TEMPORAL THINGS TO BURDEN US DOWN & BURY US. THE HOUR IS COMING & NOW IS - HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF MAN - JESUS - & BELIEVE -

WE HAVE PASSED FROM THE REALM OF DEATH INTO THE REALM OF  
ETERNAL LIFE. PRAISE GOD!